

REMARKS

Claims 1-38 are presently pending in the application. Claims 1, 14, 16-19, 32, 33, 35, 36, and 38 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Pinder et al. (6,219,358). Claims 2 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Pinder et al. in view of Watanabe (6,775,257). Claim 7 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite due to insufficient antecedent basis. Claims 3-6, 8-13, 15, 21-31, 34, and 37 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant wishes to thank Examiner for the objected to, but allowed claims. Applicant respectfully believes, however, that all claims 1-38 are allowable over the cited art for at least the following reasons. Independent claims 1, 16, and 35 are directed towards allocating PID values to a program by assigning a session number to a session, which is associated with a program. The program is then associated with PID values. As stated in the last sentence of paragraph 35 of the Detailed Description, it should be emphasized that a program number should not be confused with a session number, which the Examiner is alluding to in the Office Action with the comparison of a session number with a program number in a PAT 304. Assigning a session number to a session and storing them in a session table, as shown in FIG. 6 of the present invention, is done in order to keep track of the sessions in which programming is being transmitted from the multi-output stream transmitter, among other things. The session numbers that are stored in a session map can then be used to determine the active sessions for each output transport stream that is transmitted from an output port. Additionally, the state of a session may be unassigned or assigned. It is believed, therefore, that Independent claims 1, 16, and 35 overcome the rejection under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) since Pinder et al. does not teach every element of the stated claims. Likewise, their respective dependent claims further limit the elements of the claims and should, therefore, also be allowable.

Reconsideration and reexamination of the present application is requested in view of the foregoing amendment and in view of the following remarks.

CONCLUSION

The foregoing is submitted as a full and complete response to the Office Action dated August 25, 2005. Claims 1-38 will be pending in the present application upon entry of the present amendment, with claims 1, 16, and 35 being independent. Based on the amendments and remarks set forth herein, Applicant respectfully submits that the subject patent application is in condition for allowance. Because the claims may include additional elements that are not taught or suggested by the cited art, the preceding arguments in favor of patentability are advanced without prejudice to other bases of patentability.

Upon entry of the foregoing Response, the above-identified patent application includes 3 independent claims. Because Applicant has previously paid for 38 total claims and 3 independent claims, Applicant submits that no additional fee is due. Should it be determined that any additional fee is due or any excess fee has been received, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees which may be required or credit any overpayment to deposit account #19-0761.

Should the Examiner have any comments or suggestions that would place the subject patent application in better condition for allowance, he is respectfully requested to telephone the undersigned agent at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted:

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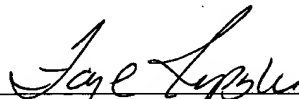
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Faye Ropski